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For Immediate Release

Judge Catherine Rice Holderfield attends conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

FRANKFORT, Ky., June 30, 2006 — Warren County Family Court Judge Catherine Rice Holderfield recently took part in the 10th Child Abuse and Neglect Institute: the Role of the Judge, held June 4-8 at the University of Nevada in Reno. Judge Holderfield is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, which offered the conference.

"I believe judges need to stay abreast of new findings that affect the lives of children and families," said Judge Holderfield. "This was an intense conference on child abuse and protection, attachment and bonding of children, recognizing child abuse injuries, substance abuse and permanency planning."

Judge Holderfield also attended a session that dealt with the effects a parent's use of methamphetamine has on the child. "Methamphetamine abuse and production not only destroys the lives of users, but their children are also at high risk of injury due to the dangerous chemical components of a methamphetamine lab in their home. The children of users often have to be placed in foster care. When parents are not successfully rehabilitated, which is often the case with methamphetamine users, their children are placed for adoption."

Jefferson County Family Court Judge Patricia Walker FitzGerald was a presenter at the conference.

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